

Application No.: 10/017,410  
Response dated: November 13, 2006  
Reply to Office Action dated: 02/22/2006

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (canceled)

1. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a coding sequence for a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4.

2. (original) A genetic construct comprising a polynucleotide of Claim 2 downstream from a heterologous promoter.

3. (original) A host cell transfected with the genetic construct of Claim 3.

5. (canceled)

4. (withdrawn) A method for identifying modulators of expression of a polynucleotide consisting of a coding sequence for a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4, the method including the step of observing a change in the level of expression of the polynucleotide in a host cell after exposure of the host cell to a modulating agent.

7. (withdrawn) A method for diagnosing a hepatocellular cancer in tumor cells from a liver of a human or non-human animal, the method comprising the steps of:

determining an expression level in the liver tumor cells of a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:3;  
determining the expression level in regenerating liver tissue of the polynucleotide;  
diagnosing a hepatocellular cancer when the expression level in the liver tumor cells is higher than the expression level in the regenerating liver tissue.

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8. (canceled)

9. (withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 7 wherein at least one of the expression level determining steps comprises the step of hybridizing to cellular mRNA an oligonucleotide or a polynucleotide that hybridizes under defined conditions to a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of a coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and a coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, the defined conditions being selected from the group consisting of (i) 50% formamide, 5X SSC, and 1% SDS upon incubation at 42°C followed by washing in 0.2X SSC and 0.1% SDS at 65°C and (ii) 5X SSC and 1% SDS upon incubation at 65°C followed by washing in 0.2X SSC and 0.1% SDS at 65°C.

10-18. (canceled)

5 19. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 2, wherein the coding sequence is selected from the group consisting of a coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and a coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.      the      the